



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: April 4, 2007
EXPIRATION DATE: April 19, 2007
REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2006-923-4
WATERWAY: Tazlina River

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit (DA) for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Design and Construction, 550 W. 5th Ave., Ste. 1340, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2220.

LOCATION: The proposed project is located within Section 25 and 26, T. 4 N., R. 6 W., Copper River Meridian; Latitude 62.1033° N., Longitude 146.0753° W.; on USGS Map Gulkana A-5, immediately north of the Glenn Highway between milepost 160 and 163 approximately 20 miles west of Glennallen, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's project purpose is to provide access and parking for property holders in the Ridgeview Subdivision.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to construct two subdivision access road aprons from the Glenn Highway to Ridgeview Subdivision at Meteor Lake Drive and Woodlot Road. Additionally the applicant proposes to construct a section of Woodlot Road connecting the access road apron to a 1-acre parking area adjacent to Woodlot Road. The two proposed access road aprons and the parking area requires the discharge of up to 15,400 cubic yards of gravel fill and will impact 2.25 acres of palustrine wetlands underlain with discontinuous permafrost. The applicant's initial investigation indicates the entire area is palustrine shrub scrub and forested wetlands.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: On July 28, 2006, Public Notice POA-2006-923-4 was initially issued for proposed impacts to 1.5 acres of palustrine wetlands for the construction of two access road aprons at Meteor Lake Drive and Woodlot Road and a 1-acre parking area within Ridgeview Subdivision. The project plans were subsequently modified excluding the proposed parking area and Nationwide Permit (NWP) 14 was issued for the two access road aprons on October 5, 2006. The DNR has since revised the project plans and the proposed impacts will exceed those authorized under NWP 14. No work authorized by the NWP has been done and the revised project no longer qualifies for a NWP therefore an individual DA permit is required. No comments were received during the initial July 28, 2006 public notice period.

There are 85 lots in the subdivision, all approximately 10 acres in size. All lots have been sold by DNR Division of Mining Lands and Water in a sealed bid auction. The entire subdivision is approximately 1600 acres. The roads are platted and will be built at a future date by the landowners when they form a subdivision association. A subdivision association has yet to be formed. A permit is required for future subdivision roads and individual lot owners will need to obtain permits for future individual lot development in Waters of the U.S. including wetlands.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes a 150-foot buffer around Meteor Lake and Tex Smith Lake and a buffer 100-foot from the centerline on each side of four main tributaries within the subdivision (see sheet 6 of 6). The proposed buffers will result in protection of 52.50 acres of riparian/wetland area.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: This project is not located within the Alaska Coastal Zone and therefore does not require Coastal Zone Management Act Certification.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or modify their designated critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect EFH in the project area. This Public Notice initiates EFH consultation with the NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Engineer during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Victor Ross at (907) 753-2712, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Victor.O.Ross@poa02.usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

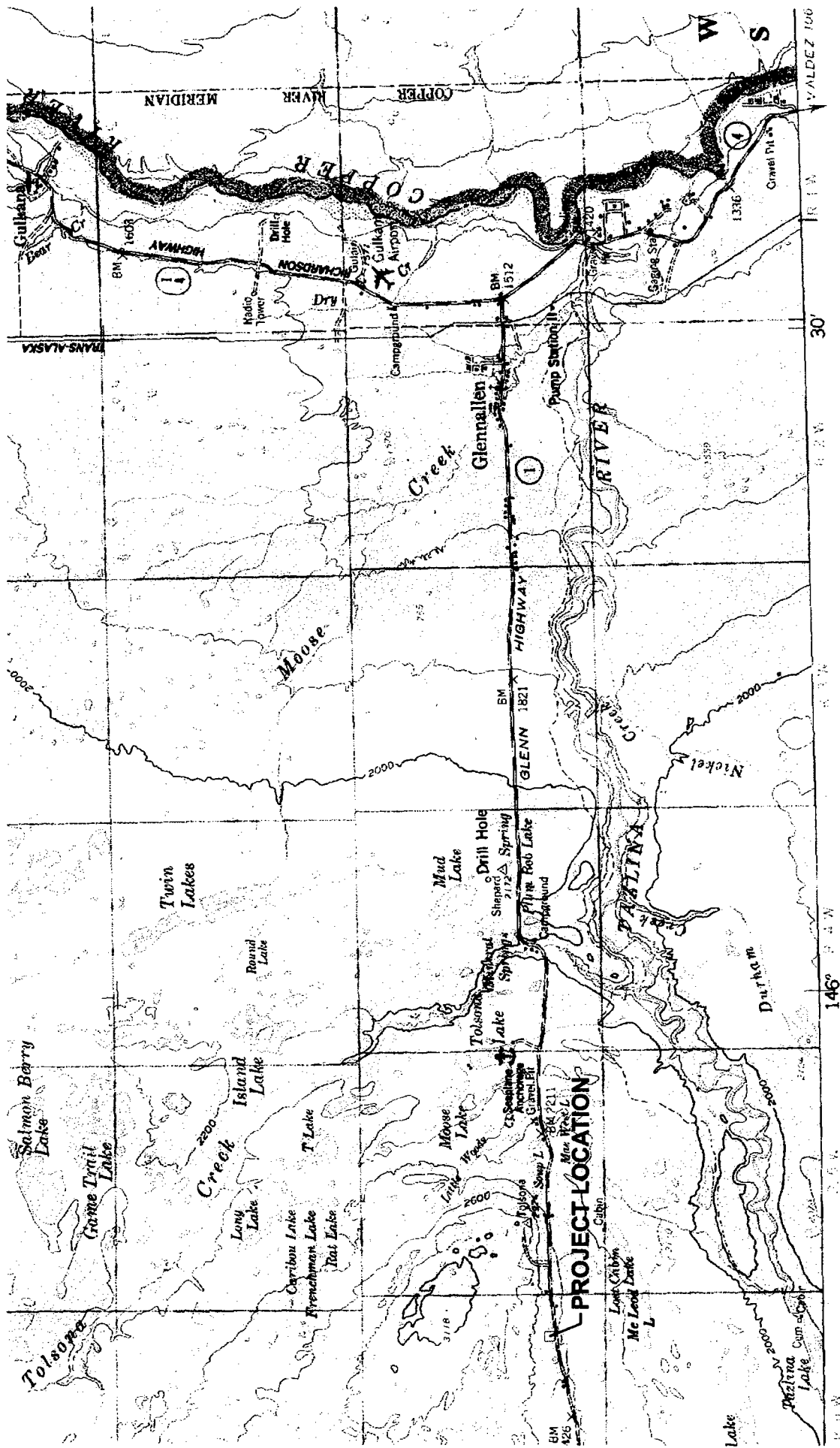
AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

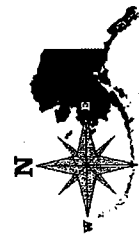
Project drawings and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

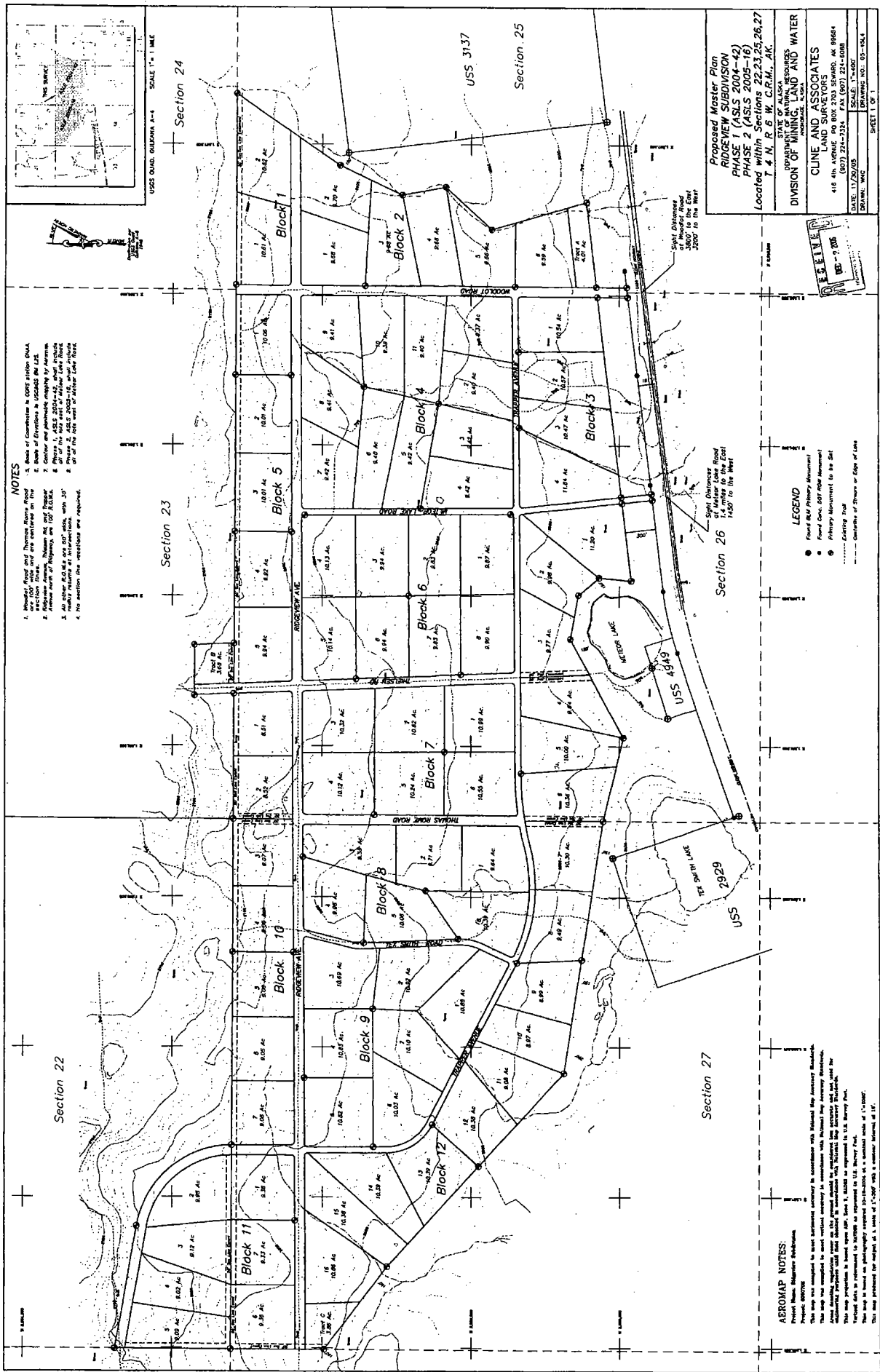
District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

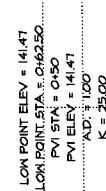


Ridgeview Subdivision
Figure 1
Location Map

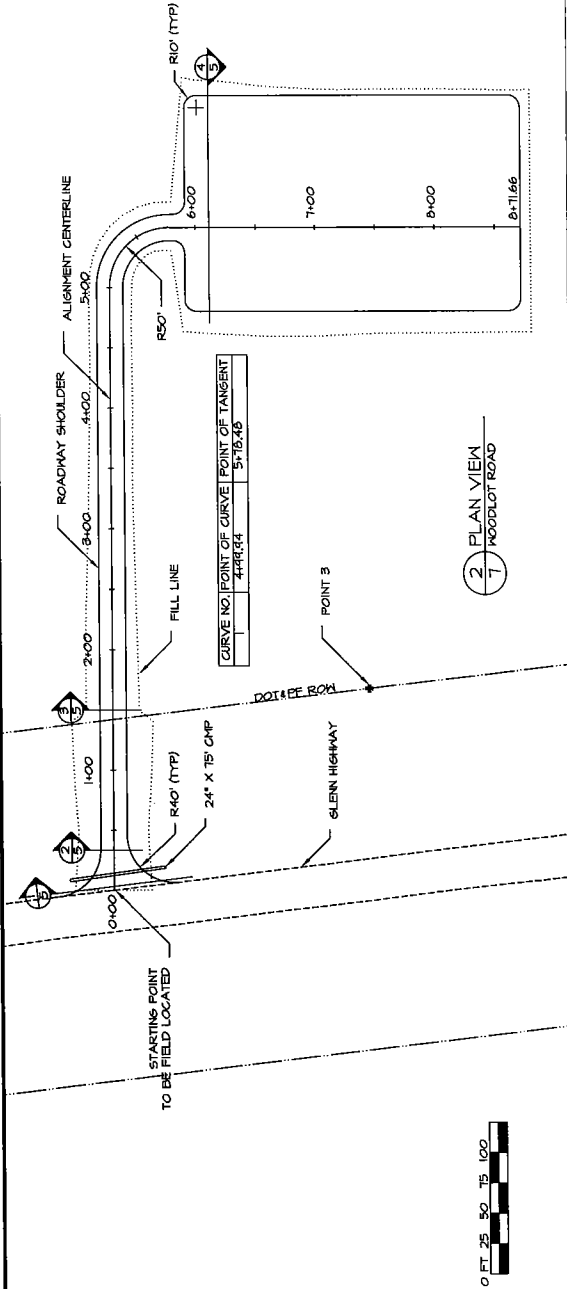




POA-2006-923-4
 Sheet 2 of 6

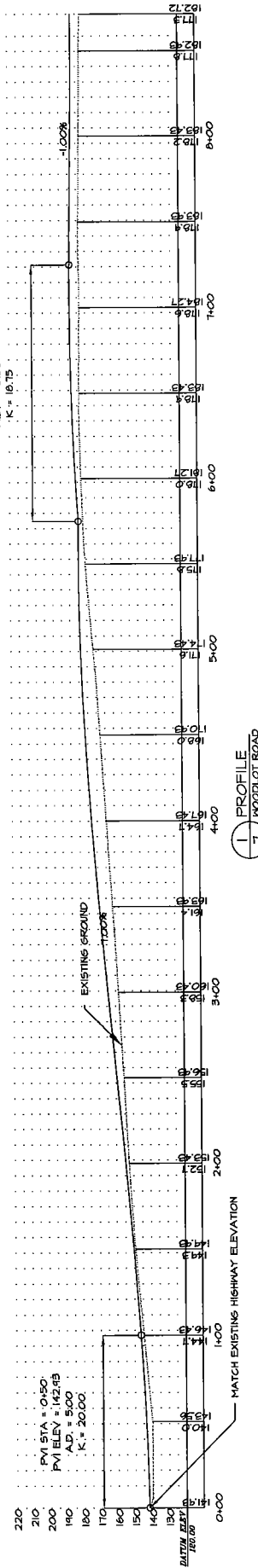


POA-2006-923-4



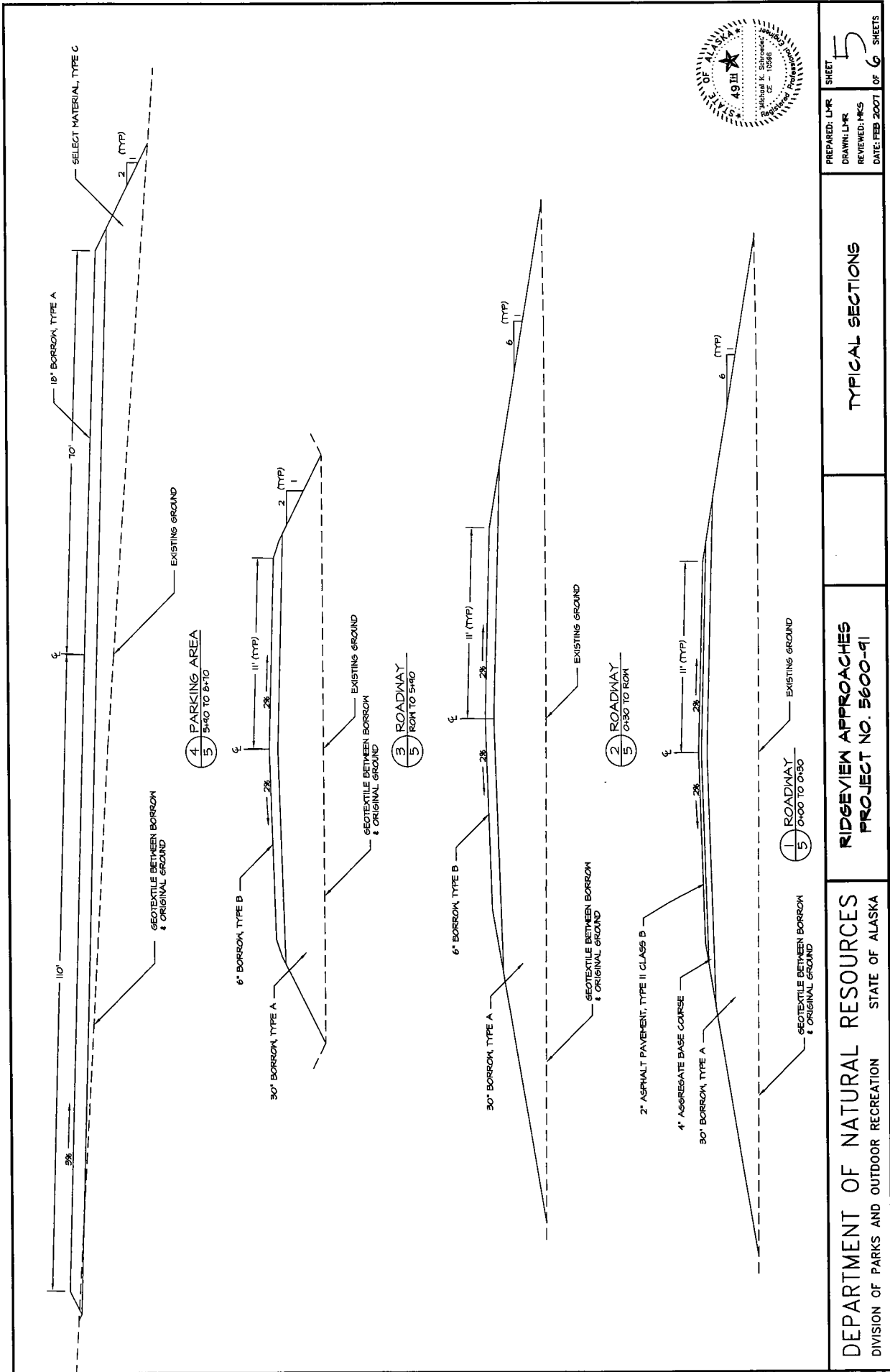
| CURVE # | BEGINNING VERTICAL CURVE STATION | BEGINNING VERTICAL CURVE ELEVATION | ENDING VERTICAL CURVE STATION | ENDING VERTICAL CURVE ELEVATION |
|---------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 0+00 | 141.43 | 1+00 | 146.43 |
| 2 | 5+75 | 174.66 | 7+25 | 184.18 |

HIGH POINT ELEV. = 184.28
HIGH POINT STA. = 7+00.25
PVI STA. = 6+50
PVI ELEV. = 184.93
A.D. = -0.00
K = 18.75



| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--|--|---------------------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION | STATE OF ALASKA | RIDGEVIEW APPROACHES PROJECT NO. 5600-91 | WOODLOT ROAD & PARKING PLAN AND PROFILE | PREPARED: LMR DRAWN: LMR REVIEWED: MRS DATE: FEB 2007 | SHEET 4 OF 6 SHEETS |
|---|-----------------|---|--|--|---------------------------|

POA-2006-923-4



| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| PREPARED: LHR DRAWN: LHR REVIEWED: MRS DATE: FEB 2007 | SHEET 5 OF 6 | TYPICAL SECTIONS | RIDGEVIEW APPROACHES PROJECT NO 5600-91 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STATE OF ALASKA |
|--|---------------------------|------------------|--|

POA-2006-923-4

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION
555 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617
PHONE: (907) 269-7564/FAX: (907) 334-2415

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA-2006-923-4, Tazlina River**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.